

NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION



Information Letter



FOR N. C. A. MEMBERS

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Room Reservations for the Louisville Convention

Following the announcement in our Information Letter that Louisville had been selected as the Convention city for the 1926 Convention, a number of the Association's members have filed application for hotel reservations.

President Trego is now sending out a notice to the members who have not applied for reservations, asking that they make application as soon as possible. It is well known that the Convention will crowd Louisville's best hotels to their capacity in order to take care of all of the membership, but this can be done with the cooperation of our members, especially in dividing up their reservations at different hotels in case they need more than one room.

There will be no headquarters hotel at Louisville. Since the last convention held there, four new hotels have been opened and all members can be satisfactorily taken care of and pleasantly located. All of the hotels are within a short distance from Machinery Hall where the exhibits will be held.

Canned Salmon Found Blameless

A fact of great scientific interest to fish cannery as well as to distributors and consumers has been brought out by three recent investigations of complaints conducted by the National Canners Association.

In each case the claim was made by a consumer that broken glass had been found in canned salmon and had caused more or less injury to those eating the salmon.

In connection with the investigation of these claims, examination of samples of the alleged "glass" was made by the

laboratories of the National Canners Association at Washington and Seattle. This showed conclusively that the substance was not glass, but an insoluble crystalline substance, well known to chemists as magnesium ammonium phosphate. This substance is entirely harmless and is probably a normal constituent of fish foods, though the conditions under which it forms crystals large enough to be mistaken for glass are probably exceptional and are an interesting subject for further investigation.

Since definite proof was furnished to the claimants regarding the nature of the glass-like substance, nothing further has been heard of the cases and they have presumably been dropped.

What Canned Foods Week Means

The purpose of Canned Foods Week is admirably stated in the Canned Foods Week number of "Facts and Figures," the monthly journal of the American Wholesale Grocers Association. In an editorial reciting why Canned Foods Week is becoming more extensive and gaining wider support every year, "Facts and Figures" states:

"Canned Foods Week is the means of widening the outlet for the farmer's or grower's products, of enlarging the market for the output of the canner, of increasing the volume of business done by the wholesale grocer and by the retail grocer, and finally of bringing to the table of the consumer, at moderate expense, vegetables, fruits, meats, fish, milk and other food items, to be had promptly whenever wanted, at all seasons—appetizing, nourishing, health-giving."

Research on Canning Crop Fertilizers

It is reported that the Soil Improvement Committee of the National Fertilizer Association is establishing a graduate fellowship for the purpose of carrying on research on canning and truck crop fertilizers. The fellowship is at the New Jersey Agricultural College, New Brunswick, N. J., and will be administered by the director of the Experiment Station, Dr. J. G. Lipman, one of the leading fertilizer authorities in the United States.

This fellowship is one of a series which the National Fertilizer Association is supporting in various agricultural colleges, but is the first one, so far as we are informed, in which the study of fertilizers for canning crops is the major part of the work contemplated.

Exports of Canned Foods

Canned food exports, which had been depressed in recent months, showed an upward trend during August. The exports of all classes of canned food were larger for the month than in the corresponding month of 1924. For the first eight months of the year, however, the exports of canned foods have been, in general, smaller than during the same period for last year. Meats, sardines and pineapples, however, showed increases. The continued increase in the exports of sardines is of special interest, particularly in view of the smaller shipments of salmon.

Labor Day Observance Lowers Car Loadings

During the week ending September 12, loadings of revenue freight, as reported to the American Railway Association, fell below the million mark for the first time in some weeks, the decrease being due in large part to the observance of Labor Day. The loadings totaled 975,434 cars, a decline of 127,512 cars from the preceding week.

Norwegian Fish Packing Conditions

The strike among the laborers in the Norwegian sardine canneries is still in progress, according to the American consul at Stavanger, and the sardine packing situation is practically stationary. Prices are unchanged. During the first seven months of 1925, exports of canned fish from Norway totaled 33,530,000 pounds, as against 47,437,000 pounds last year. About 70 per cent of Norway's fish exports are shipped from the Stavanger district, and during the first seven months of the current year fish exports from that district to the United States amounted to 13,114,400 pounds valued at \$1,367,800. During the same period last year, exports from Stavanger to the United States were 21,081,700 pounds valued at \$2,299,900.

Argentine Province Offers Bounty for Cannery

The Province of Jujuy in Argentina is offering bounties for the establishment of new industries, among which is the sum of 2,000 pesos for the first fruit cannery, the money to be paid after three years of operation. New industries covered by the law are to be exempted from all provincial taxes for a period of three years.

Seeks Market for Queensland Pineapple Pack

The American consul in Newcastle, New South Wales, reports that, to supplement small orders for canned pineapple received from British firms during the past season, the manager for the Committee of Direction of Fruit Marketing of Queensland, has visited the other States of Australia and arranged for the disposal on their markets of the coming winter and summer crops of canned pineapple.

Under this new arrangement, it is believed, assured prices will be obtained by the growers for the fruit sold to the canners. It is also hoped that this will fix a minimum price for fresh fruit in the market, and also provide for the export of a certain percentage of the canned pack to foreign countries.

Pack of Salmon in 1925

The Pacific Fisherman has published statistics on the 1925 pack of salmon, including the pack of British Columbia up to August 29. In Alaska the pack was as follows: Western Alaska, 604,000 cases; Central Alaska, 1,111,000 cases; Southeast Alaska, 2,656,000 cases; total 4,371,000 cases. The Puget Sound pack was 700,000 cases and that of the Columbia River 342,500 cases. In British Columbia, up to August 29, the pack was 873,537 cases. The total for all these districts is 6,287,037 cases. The pack in Siberia is estimated at 500,000 cases.

New Bulletin Issued

With this issue of the Information Letter, members will receive copies of Circular No. 14-L, "Investigation of Spoilage Claims", setting out the procedure developed by the National Canners Association for such work.